State of Idaho

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NEWS RELEASE

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Emergency Preparedness Begins Before Disaster Strikes

Insurance Department urges Idahoans to review coverage

BOISE ID (March 2, 2010) – The recent disasters in Chile and Haiti are powerful warnings for people everywhere to be sure personal emergency preparedness plans are in place. The Idaho Department of Insurance reminds consumers to include a review of insurance policies in their preparedness plans.

Earthquakes cannot be avoided, but having insurance coverage can help to mitigate any losses. Department Director Bill Deal says, "The time to purchase insurance is before disaster strikes. Some types of coverage have waiting periods. The time to take action is now."

Earthquakes can often be covered by a rider added to the homeowners insurance policy. However, not all carriers offer this coverage, and if an earthquake is imminent, this coverage may not be available.

Standard homeowners and renters policies exclude coverage for floods. Flood policies have a 30-day waiting period before they go into effect. Idahoans should talk to their insurance agents to discuss their needs and find out what policies are available to them.

The Department of Insurance can assist consumers with these and other insurance-related issues. Consumers are encouraged to call 334-4250 in Boise, 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide, or visit the Web site, www.doi.idaho.gov.

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